

TESTIMONIALS

OF

DR. BLYTH,

AS

CANDIDATE FOR THE PROFESSORSHIP OF CHEMISTRY
IN KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.

THE following are a few only of the Certificates which DR. BLYTH has been able to collect on a very short notice. Other chemists of high European reputation, residing both in France, Italy, and Germany, have been written to, whose Testimonials will be printed in an Appendix as soon as received.



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FOREIGN CHEMICAL TESTIMONIALS.

I.

Professor LIEBIG.

(*Translated.*)

DR. BLYTH, who has already for a long time occupied himself with medical science, and as practical physician obtained the best success, gave this career up, in order, according to his taste, to devote himself entirely to the sciences, and particularly to Chemistry, which, in the present time, is destined to take the most powerful share in the progress of Physiology and Pathology.

Since autumn 1843, Dr. Blyth has occupied himself in the laboratory of this University with the investigations of organic bodies, of which labours one result is already before the chemical public. It relates to the remarkable decomposition which narcotine experiences by the action of bichloride of platinum. Dr. Blyth discovered by this, that narcotine, through the action of this chloride, is resolved into two new organic bases and two organic acids, one of the last two being opianic acid. This work, so rich in results, was, in the most beautiful manner, confirmed by an investigation of Professor Wöhler in Göttingen, undertaken at the same time, "on the products of decomposition of narcotine by oxidizing means," so that thus the facts described by Dr. Blyth may be regarded as a new field opened up to the science.

A second investigation relates to the elements and the products of decomposition of storax. I am not at liberty to mention here the results already obtained, as the investigation is not yet finished; but I cannot omit mentioning an example discovered by Dr. Blyth, of the Isomerism of a Carbo-hydrogen, to which the science possesses nothing similar, viz., styrol, a volatile, colourless, aromatic oil, is converted by the action of the temperature of boiling water, in vessels either in contact or free from contact with air, into a solid resinous and inodorous substance, resembling the most beautiful transparent glass; a phenomenon which has resemblance to the coagulation of the white of egg, with this difference, however, that the solid non-volatile styrol by a high temperature passes over again into the form of fluid volatile styrol. These investigations establish the decided talent of Dr. Blyth for chemical inquiries; and when I add, that he combines the most excellent and most grounded knowledge with the greatest zeal and enthusiasm for the science, it may consequently be affirmed, with the greatest justice, that it will be a lucky circumstance for any University which obtains and secures him as a Teacher.

(Signed) JUSTUS LIEBIG,

Professor of Chemistry in the
University of Giessen, &c. &c.

II.

DR. KNAPP, *Professor of Chemistry applied to the Arts in the University of Giessen, and Member of several learned Societies, &c. &c.*

(Translated.)

THE abode of Dr. Blyth in this town, has obtained for me the acquaintance of this well-informed and excellent man; and with pleasure I have deduced, from intercourse

with him, the conviction, that a rare combination between his power to communicate his thoughts and to give information, as well as his excellent talent for scientific inquiry, fit him in, the highest degree, for the career of an academic teacher. Indeed, Dr. Blyth has succeeded, through the discoveries which he made in this laboratory, and has laid down in his memoir "*On the Composition of Narcotine, and some of its Products of Decomposition through the action of Bichloride of Platinum,*" to give to the learned world the most splendid proof of his talents. The results with which the labours of Dr. Blyth were crowned, are so much the more worthy of the science, and the more entitled to acknowledgment, as the same forementioned work lay in one of the most difficult fields of organic chemistry; and the science must be the more particularly indebted to him, as he has, by his acute powers of observation and by experiments, cleared up, in its weightiest point, a question of contention, which had for a long time drawn into its discussion the first names of the Continent, as Liebig and Regnault, without, however, being enabled to be settled. The proper determination of the equivalent of narcotine, the exposition of the hitherto unknown sources of error by this determination, as well as the investigation of its products of decomposition by bichloride of platinum, are decidedly the merit of Dr. Blyth, by which he has given to the doctrine of organic bases a proper and firm foundation. It gives the undersigned peculiar satisfaction to express in writing the grounds of his esteem for Dr. Blyth.

(Signed) F. L. KNAPP, *Dr. Phil.*

III.

DR. HERMANN KOPP, *Professor of Chemistry and Physics in the University of Giessen, &c. &c.*

(*Translated.*)

DR. BLYTH, who for a long time has availed himself of the advantages of this University for the perfection of his chemical knowledge, has already proved, that he possesses superior abilities, an excellent knowledge of Chemistry and all its assistant sciences, and a particular talent for substantial investigations. In this last respect, his published results have met with just acknowledgment. He has shown by these means, that for the communication and extension of Chemistry, he can act with the greatest advantage as Teacher.

(Signed) DR. HERMANN KOPP.

IV.

DR. ZAMMINER, *Professor of Mathematics and Physics in the University of Giessen, &c. &c.*

(*Translated.*)

IT gives me the greatest pleasure to be able to testify as to the great capabilities for undertaking the duties of a Teacher of Chemistry possessed by Dr. Blyth, whom I have long known as an excellent scientific man. Such a testimonial on my part was not necessary for that purpose, as Dr. Blyth, by his beautiful investigations in the laboratory of Giessen, on the products of decomposition of narcotine, as well as on styrol and cinnamic acid, has sufficiently proved his aptitude for the science.

(Signed) DR. ZAMMINER.

V.

DR. C. F. ETTLING, *Professor of Chemistry in the Hesse-Darmstadt Granducal Provincial Realschule in Giessen, formerly Assistant in the Giessen Laboratory, under Professor Liebig.*

(*Translated.*)

DR. BLYTH, with whom I have had the great pleasure of being acquainted during his residence of above a year and a half here, where he occupied himself in the laboratory of Professor Liebig with chemical analytical investigations, has communicated to me that he is solicitous to obtain the situation of Professor of Chemistry in Aberdeen, which has become vacant by the translation of my esteemed friend Dr. Gregory to Edinburgh; at the same time he honoured me with the request to assist him in attaining his object, by testifying as to his capability of being a Teacher of Chemistry.

Well acquainted with the qualifications which are at the present time accustomed to be looked for in a teacher of chemistry in a great Institution; knowing how desirable it is that he should be thoroughly familiar with the whole range of theoretical chemistry, but particularly with the organic portion; that he should possess in the highest degree dexterity, accuracy, and experience in the performance of synthetic and analytic works, united to clearness, solidity, and elegance in the exposition of his science, in order by these means to exhibit himself as a qualified teacher; and, lastly, that he should be already known in an honourable manner by his works to the men of the day;—on weighing all these points well, I do not hesitate for a moment to certify that Dr. Blyth possesses all these qualities in a high degree.

Better, however, than I can here testify has Dr. Blyth

himself proved, by his excellent investigation of the composition of narcotine and its products of decomposition, as well as by his works on styrol and cinnamic acid, to what a high point in his science he has reached. His work on the first-mentioned particular stands in the most honourable manner beside that of the renowned Professor Wöhler on the same substance, and the manifold results of both support and confirm each other. This fruitful investigation offered innumerable difficulties in separations and analysis, dependent on the instability of the substance and the complication of the relations of its metamorphoses and combinations. By overcoming all these difficulties with circumspection, skill, and perseverance, Dr. Blyth has certainly himself given the best testimony of his capacity to solve the most difficult problems of chemistry.

A particular weight may be laid by the Honourable Guardians of the University of Aberdeen for the election of Dr. Blyth, on the fact of the physiological direction of the new chemistry, so highly important to medicine; and from the united chemical and medical knowledge of Dr. Blyth, the weightiest results in this field may be expected.

(Signed) C. F. ETTLING.

VI.

DR. WILL, Director of the “*Filial Laboratorium*,” in Giessen, formerly Assistant to Professor Liebig.

(Translated.)

IT gives me real satisfaction to be able to express by the following lines the esteem which Dr. Blyth, during his now nearly two years' residence in Giessen, has inspired me for his character, as well in respect to his zealous and ceaseless scientific exertions, as also to his excellent moral character.

Dr. Blyth, by his investigation of the products of decomposition of narcotine by the bichloride of platinum, has proved that he has mastered the whole range of chemistry, and particularly, that he is completely familiar with the present methods of investigation employed in this science. He has by this work shown that he is capable of finding out new ways, new methods to explain the chemical nature of organic compounds, which, till the present moment, had offered insurmountable difficulties to the exertions of the most excellent chemists. His later discoveries in styrol and cinnamic acid, and their chemical metamorphoses, offer a farther proof how deep and grounded he has occupied himself with the study of organic chemistry. They give me the firmest conviction, that he will continue to distinguish himself in a science which he has already laid under so deep an obligation to him.

(Signed)

DR. WILL.

VII.

DR. A. W. HOFMANN, *Assistant in the Laboratory
of Giessen.*

(Translated.)

My position in this laboratory afforded me the opportunity of being in close relation with Dr. Blyth, and of becoming acquainted with his excellent abilities, as well as his deep general attainments: I confess that I feel embarrassed in testifying as to the performances of one who, in this respect, is my superior. No one, however, has had more opportunity than myself to admire the perseverance and skill with which Dr. Blyth overcame the many difficulties which met him at every step in his beautiful investigation of narcotine and its products of decomposition. These labours, which are already before the judgment of

chemists, have afforded a measure of the hopes to which Dr. Blyth, in his character of chemist, has given rise. Uniting with this decided talent for natural sciences, the happy art in a high degree of representation and exposition, Dr. Blyth will prove an ornament to any University, and his appointment as a Teacher will be crowned with the most decided success.

(Signed) DR. HOFMANN.

VIII.

DR. RAGSKY, *Professor of Chemistry in the Imperial “Joseph’s Academy” in Vienna.*

(*Translated.*)

THE undersigned had the pleasure, during his abode at Giessen, of becoming acquainted with Dr. Blyth. By referring to the beautiful investigation on narcotine, which Dr. Blyth has already published as the fruit of his labours, the undersigned considers that he takes the best way of placing in the strongest light the chemical attainments of this excellent young man. Such works say more than any testimonial.

(Signed) RAGSKY.

IX.

DR. HERMANN HOFFMANN, *Privat-docent of Physiological Chemistry in Giessen.*

(*Translated.*)

DR. BLYTH, after the completion of his medico-physiological studies in England and France, spent a long time

here in Giessen, in order to cultivate in M. Liebig's laboratory those branches of his studies for which, to the great detriment of the science, opportunity is afforded almost nowhere else.

After completion of studies on general chemistry, Dr. Blyth occupied himself with organic chemical analyses. I dare not presume to offer a judgment on the issue of his ceaseless exertions: his works on narcotine are before the public: their importance to chemistry is acknowledged.

There is nothing more highly desirable than that an opportunity should be afforded Dr. Blyth of pursuing farther those studies which he has begun with such success.

(Signed) HERMAN HOFFMANN.

A P P E N D I X

TO THE
FOREIGN CHEMICAL TESTIMONIALS.

X.

From DR. LAURENT, Professor of Chemistry to the Faculty of Sciences, and Member of the Academy of Bordeaux.

(Translated.)

SIR,

I have received, from Dr. Hofman, a copy of the memoir you have just published on Narcotine, and on the products of its decomposition.

Allow me, Sir, to congratulate you on the success which you have attained. The ability which you have displayed in these researches, and the talent with which you have detected the source of errors into which the most distinguished Chemists had fallen, show to me how much science may expect from you.

I understand that you are a Candidate for the situation of Professor of Chemistry in Aberdeen; I hope your countrymen will know how to appreciate your merit; and all the friends of science will, like myself, rejoice in so honourable an appointment.

I avail myself of this opportunity of recalling myself to your recollection, and of offering my hearty wishes for your success.

Your very obedient Servant,

(Signed)

AUGT. LAURENT.

XI.

From Mons. KUHLMANN, Professor of Chemistry to the Faculty of Sciences of Lille, &c. &c.

(Translated.)

Lille, July 11, 1844.

I have to thank you, Sir, for the present which you were so good as to make me of a copy of your memoir on narctine, and on some products which are obtained from this alcaloid, by the action of the bichloride of platinum. I have read, with the most lively interest, this work, in which I have remarked the order and the clearness of ideas, as well as those philosophic views, which characterise works issuing from the laboratory of Giessen.

I shall receive, with the greatest pleasure, the resumé of the researches on which you have since been engaged, and which you communicate to me in your letter, of the 2d of this month, from Ostende.

I shall learn with a lively interest that your offer of yourself, as a Candidate for the Chair of Medical Chemistry, has met with the success merited by your zeal, and the knowledge which you have acquired under illustrious masters, whose testimony cannot fail of being of great use to you.

Receive, Sir, &c. &c.

(Signed)

F. KUHLMANN.

XII.

From ANICETAS D'OSERSKY, "Assesseur de Collège au service de sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies," Professor of Chemistry applied to the Arts, at St. Petersburg, &c. &c.

(Translated.)

In making an eulogium of the knowledge of Chemistry,

and of the natural sciences, possessed by Dr. Blyth, I only render justice to his rare talents, and his inimitable application, which have generally acquired for him the esteem and confidence of all those who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and have procured for him his worthy reputation in the celebrated Chemical Institution under the direction of the great savant, Professor Liebig, at Giessen. I make it a particular duty also to testify here, that any University, Academy, College, or scientific society whatever, which would obtain Dr. Blyth as their member, will find in his person all the faculties and resources which are necessary, not only to be useful to them, but also to procure for them a durable celebrity in the annals of science.

(Signed)

ANICETAS D'OSERSKY.

XIII.

From DR. BUNSEN, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Marburg; Member of several learned Societies.

(Translated.)

IN expressing, according to request, my opinion of the scientific qualifications of Dr. Blyth, for the Chair of Chemistry in Aberdeen, vacated by Professor Gregory, I fulfil with pleasure a duty which I owe to Dr. Blyth personally, as well as to science. Dr. Blyth has, by his beautiful and grounded work on the products of decomposition of narcotine, made his name known in the most advantageous manner in science; and given, by this investigation, the most complete proof that he unites to an unwearied zeal for scientific inquiries the properties which the science requires from a well informed, practical, and theoretical Chemist. As on the one side, his zealous and successful efforts offer a great security that he will devote his activity with

advantage and success to the post of an academic teacher, so on the other side, it can only be in the interest of science if Dr. Blyth should find a sphere of action corresponding to his wishes and his powers in the vacant chair in Aberdeen.

(Signed)

DR. BUNSEN.

XIV.

From DR. FRESENIUS, Privat-docent of Chemistry in the University of Giessen, and Assistant to Prof. Liebig.

(Translated.)

HAVING heard that my dear friend Dr. Blyth is a Candidate for the Professorship of Chemistry in Aberdeen, I take advantage of the opportunity, with real pleasure, to express to him the great esteem I have for his comprehensive and fundamental knowledge of Chemistry, and other sciences, as well as for his honourable, upright, and excellent character.

As, on the one hand, the certainty and extent of his knowledge, as well as the clearness of his powers of exposition, qualify him in the highest degree for being teacher of *theoretical* Chemistry ; so, on the other, his practical capabilities, acquired both formerly and during his considerably long residence here, whilst attending the Laboratory of Liebig, afford the surest proof of what he could accomplish as teacher of *practical* Chemistry, and director of a Chemical Laboratory ; and of what in this respect I am sure he will accomplish.

Dr. Blyth's excellent researches on narcotine and its products of decomposition, &c., have procured for him a considerable and lasting reputation in the Chemical world.

(Signed)

DR. R. FRESENIUS.

Giessen, July 9, 1844.

XV.

*From DR. BROMEIS, Professor of Chemistry and Physics
in the "Gewerbschule" in Hanau, &c.*

(*Translated.*)

KNOWING exactly, as I do, the scientific qualifications of Dr. John Blyth, I can, with the fullest conviction, congratulate the Seminary where he may be appointed teacher.

Both in the theory and in the practice of Chemistry, as particularly in his last comprehensive and fundamental investigations with regard to the composition of narcotine, Dr. Blyth has given the most satisfactory security, not only that all parts of the more recent Chemistry are completely familiar to him, but that he possesses in a high degree the most exact experience and skill in practical investigations. These qualifications are united in Dr. Blyth with an excellent character, and the talent of communicating information easily and quickly, as well as of making himself understood by a truly elegant power of exposition.

All this is a guarantee for his perfect qualification for being teacher of Chemistry, and of the natural sciences. In conclusion, I can only add my wish that Dr. Blyth may very soon have the opportunity afforded by an independent sphere of usefulness to pursue, with equal zeal, for the benefit of others and of the science itself, that course which he has already commenced so much to his own honour.

(Signed)

DR. C. BROMEIS,

Professor of Chemistry and Physics in
the "Gewerbschule" at Hanau.

Hanau, July 1, 1844.

XVI.

From DR. SCHIEL, Privat-docent of Chemistry in the University of Heidelberg, &c. &c.

(*Translated.*)

WORTHY FRIEND,

I have read, with the greatest interest, your memoir on narcotine. You have, by the employment of so beautiful a principle as the controlling of the composition of organic bodies by the study of their decompositions, opened up quite a new field to the advantage of Chemists.

The study of all the alcaloids, which must now be taken up anew, will this time yield more lasting results, and will enrich Chemistry with numberless interesting bodies.

Your talents, my dear Sir, assure you an exalted rank among the Chemists of your native country; and I heartily wish, on your return to England, that a sphere of action, commensurate with your knowledge and zeal, may be afforded you. Such distinguished powers as you unite in yourself ought not long to be lost to your native country.

(Signed)

DR. T. SCHIEL.

XVII.

From DR. POSSELT, Privat-docent of Chemistry in the University of Heidelberg.

RESPECTED DOCTOR,

ALLOW me to express my thanks to you for the kind communication of your researches on "the composition of

Narcotine, and some of its products of decomposition by means of Bichloride of Platinum." In this paper you have stated facts of the highest interest, having not only established beyond a doubt the composition of narcotine, but having also discovered a number of highly interesting new compounds, which bid fair, in course of time, to throw a clear light on the constitution of all the alcaloids.

For the interest of the science, I beg of you continue in the way you have entered on, for I am convinced that no one can be more fitted than you to follow out the path you have yourself opened up, and thereby to obtain the most splendid and successful results. Your industry, your extensive and deeply scientific knowledge, joined to your talent for natural research, will succeed in overcoming the difficulties on which, till now, the investigation of the peculiar constitution of the alcaloids has made shipwreck.

Receive the assurance, respected Sir, of my entire esteem, and once again accept my thanks for your communication.

(Signed)

L. POSSELT, Dr. Phil.

XVIII.

From DR. ZWENGER, Privat-docent of Chemistry in the University of Marburg, &c. &c.

(Translated.)

DR. JOHN BLYTH has, by his remarkable and distinguished investigations in Chemistry, deserved so well of this science, that we can but wish for its advantage that this Chemist may very soon find and obtain a situation corresponding to his eminent talents and capabilities.

(Signed)

CONSTANTIN ZWENGER.

XIX.

From DR. J. E. VRY, Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy in the Medico-Pharmaceutical School of Rotterdam.

I find it a very agreeable duty to bear public testimony to the uncommon skill displayed by Dr. BLYTH in Chemistry, as well practical as theoretical.

Among other things, his distinguished researches on narcotine, and its products of decomposition, afford the most persuasive proof of his abilities. I have, therefore, much pleasure in recommending him, in the event of a vacant Professorship of Chemistry, to every one who knows how to estimate profound knowledge according to its true value.

(Signed)

DR. J. E. VR^Y.

ENGLISH CHEMICAL TESTIMONIALS.

I.

Professor GRAHAM.

University College, London, July 5, 1844.

DURING an acquaintance with Dr. Blyth of upwards of ten years, I have always found him scrupulously honourable and conciliatory in conduct and deportment, and most industrious and devoted to study. While engaged with the Medical Classes at Glasgow, he paid more than the usual attention to Chemistry, and after taking his degree, he embraced the opportunities which a residence in Paris afforded of cultivating the same subject. He has since fully enjoyed the great advantage of pursuing, and I may say completing, his chemical studies in one of the best of modern schools, the laboratory of Giessen.

Dr. Blyth's knowledge of Chemistry is, I believe, such as fully qualifies him to undertake the office of teaching the science, for which his general literary and scientific attainments also highly recommend him. He has conducted lately several original researches, which are partly published, and are possessed of considerable merit. These researches evince much acuteness, and are works of great labour; they will constitute, in my opinion, a valuable addition to our information in an important department of Chemistry. From Dr. Blyth's enthusiasm and steady perseverance, much more

may be expected, which will do credit to himself and sustain the chemical reputation of any institution with which he may come to be connected.

THOMAS GRAHAM,

Professor of Chemistry, and Dean of the Medical Faculty.

II.

DR. KANE, *Professor of Natural Philosophy to the Royal Dublin Society, and of Chemistry to the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, &c., &c.*

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY,
July 8, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of 5th inst., I beg to state that I have already had occasion to examine your Memoir on Narcotine, and the products of its decomposition, which I certainly consider a very valuable addition to Organic Chemistry. It manifests a spirit of philosophic investigation, united to practical accuracy of result, which is not often met with; and I am satisfied, that if you be successful in your application for the Chair of Medicine and Chemistry in Aberdeen, left vacant by my friend Gregory, you will do much to support and extend the scientific character of that University.

With sincere hopes for your success,

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT KANE, M.D.

III.

DR. DAVID BOSWELL REID, one of Her Majesty's Commissioners for Enquiry into the Health of Towns, sometime Lecturer of Chemistry in Edinburgh.

Westminster, July 8, 1844.

I HAVE much pleasure in stating, that when Dr. Blyth attended my classes at Edinburgh about ten years ago, the zeal and success with which he prosecuted his studies attracted my particular attention ; he appeared to me to be deeply interested in Chemistry, and was one of those who impressed me with the conviction that time and opportunities were alone wanting to enable him to distinguish himself in science. Since that period, I have not often met with Dr. Blyth, but the paper to which his name is attached, bears internal evidence, that he has successfully grappled with investigations which none but professional chemists, engaged in the highest departments of analytical inquiry, would venture to enter upon.

I should do Dr. Blyth an injustice, were I not to add that I consider Dr. Blyth's habits and deportment with his friends, such as would attach his pupils to him, an object of primary importance in all teachers, but especially where a school of Practical Science is a great object of attention.

D. B. REID.

IV.

R. WARRINGTON, Esq., *Scientific Chemist to the Honourable the Apothecaries' Company of England, and Honorary Secretary to the Chemical Society of London.*

Apothecaries' Hall, July 5, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have great pleasure in giving you a Testimenial of your efficiency to undertake the duties of Professor in the King's College, Aberdeen, with high credit to yourself, benefit to science, and the advancement of the best interests of the College. Your labours in organic chemistry under Professor Liebig must have fitted you in an eminent degree for the upholding and increasing the scientific reputation of the position for which you are a Candidate ; and I regret that your paper, on "The Composition of Narcotine, and some of the products of its decomposition by the action of the Bichloride of Platinum," read before the Chemical Society on the 20th of May, is not yet before the English public, as it would at once evidence the correctness of the above statements. It is in the press, and a few weeks will put it in the hands of the Members. The labours which, I am aware, you have still in hand, are of the highest interest to science, and must stamp the high reputation of the experimenter. With every wish for your success, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT WARRINGTON.

V.

R. H. BRETT, Ph. D.M., R.C.S., *Professor of Chemistry in the Royal Institution, Liverpool, &c. &c.*

Laboratory, Royal Institution, Liverpool.

ALTHOUGH I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Dr. Blyth, I have nevertheless had an opportunity of reading his interesting and important memoir upon the decomposition of narcotine through the agency of bichloride of platinum, which work, as far as I can judge, clearly shows his intimate acquaintance with organic chemical analysis, this circumstance, coupled with the fact that he has been for some time past zealously studying in the laboratory of Professor Liebig at Giessen, where his opportunities of becoming acquainted with the other departments of chemical science, must have been very great, appears to me to fully warrant the belief that he is eminently calculated to fill the chair of a chemical professorship, with credit to himself and advantage to those whom he may have to instruct.

R. H. BRETT, Ph. D., M.R.C.S., &c.

VI.

DR. THOMAS THOMSON, M.D., *Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow.*

Glasgow, 13th July 1844.

DR. BLYTH has been an assiduous cultivator of chemistry for a considerable number of years, and has particularly distinguished himself in the examination of organic bodies, which must ultimately tend to throw a great deal of light upon physiology and medicine. In 1843, he discovered,

that when narcotine is acted on by bichloride of platinum, it is resolved into two new organic bases, and two organic acids, one of which is opianic acid, previously discovered by Professor Liebig. During the present year, he has been engaged in examining storax. His results have not been yet published ; but from what he has accomplished, we may expect valuable new facts.

From Dr. Blyth's knowledge and ardour, there can be no doubt that he is well qualified for filling a chemical chair ; especially a chair where, as in Aberdeen, it is connected with medicine.

THOMAS THOMSON, M.D.,
Professor of Chemistry, Glasgow.

VII.

DR. FREDERICK PENNY, *Professor of Chemistry, Andersonian University, Glasgow.*

Andersonian University, Glasgow,
13th July 1844.

I HAVE much pleasure in certifying to the high attainments of Dr. Blyth, who is chiefly known to me as a contributor to chemical science.

His valuable researches on Narcotine and its Derivatives, show, that he possesses an extensive and accurate knowledge of the science and manipulations of chemistry. His sound medical education—his lengthened studies under Professor Graham in Glasgow, and Professor Liebig in the celebrated Laboratory at Giessen—and the united testimony of the most eminent modern chemists, are a sufficient guarantee, that he is fully qualified to discharge the duties of the Professorship of Chemistry in King's College, Aberdeen, for which he is a Candidate.

FREDERICK PENNY, P.D.,
Professor of Chemistry, &c. &c.

VIII.

GEORGE WILSON, M.D., Lecturer on Chemistry, Edinburgh, Author of several Chemical Memoirs, Member of the Chemical Society of London, &c. &c.

24, Brown Square, Edinburgh.

DR. BLYTH having requested a testimonial from me in acknowledgement of his claims as a Candidate for the chair which Professor Gregory will shortly resign, I willingly express my conviction that he has singular qualifications for such an appointment. The theoretical and practical acquaintance with Chemistry, which he has acquired under the tuition of Professors Graham and Liebig, and his lengthened residence on the Continent among some of the most distinguished living cultivators of the Physical Sciences, have made him a thorough proficient in his favourite study ; and so far as I can judge from the knowledge I possess of the beautiful researches he has made into the composition and relations of narcotine, styrole, cinnamic acid, and other organic bodies, he is likely to be excelled by no one as an active original observer.

To his superior qualifications as a Chemist, Dr. Blyth adds the important one, in the present case, of having for some years practised medicine, and I have heard my medical friends, who were able to judge of the matter, speak of him as a most able and successful practitioner. Indeed, I should find it difficult to point to any one able to prove so good a claim as Dr. Blyth can, to a chair requiring both medical and chemical qualifications to the extent the King's College Chair does. In addition to this, he is so kind, obliging, and gentlemanly in his demeanour, that he could not fail, if elected, to be most acceptable alike to his colleagues and to the students intrusted to his care.

GEORGE WILSON, M.D., Surgeon.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

I.

DR. M. BUCHANAN, *Professor of Anatomy, Anderson's University, Senior Surgeon to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary.*

THE amalgamation of Chemistry with Medicine in the University of Aberdeen, is so unique, that I do not know a single individual with such a combination of intellectual powers as could do justice to both departments of science.

I feel great pleasure, however, in testifying that Dr. John Blyth has had most ample opportunities of making himself acquainted with every branch of his profession, and more particularly with Chemistry and Anatomy, the foundations of Medicine. It is my conviction, from long intimacy, that he will prove himself to be a useful and efficient Lecturer, having had considerable experience under Dr. Sharpey of the University of London, while acting as his prosector during his residence in Edinburgh.

M. S. BUCHANAN, M.D.

*Professor of Anatomy, Anderson's University,
Senior Surgeon, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, &c.*

II.

DR. SKAE, F.R.C.S., *Lecturer on Anatomy, &c.*

EDINBURGH, ARGYLE SQUARE,
9th July 1844.

I HAVE had the pleasure of Dr. Blyth's acquaintance for some years, and have formed a very high estimate of his

talents and professional acquirements. I am gratified at the opportunity now afforded me of bearing my testimony to his many high and estimable qualifications.

Dr. Blyth has enjoyed the most favourable and extensive opportunities of acquiring a profound knowledge of Medical science in all its departments, and of these he has availed himself in such a manner as to gain the general esteem and confidence of all his friends. Of his knowledge of Anatomy and Physiology I can speak with confidence; and although he has distinguished himself by his knowledge of those sciences, he has not neglected the study of Practical Medicine and the collateral sciences. On the contrary, he has devoted himself with such zeal and success to the study of Chemistry under the best auspices, as to have gained advantages and acquirements possessed by few.

I am confident that if Dr. Blyth should be appointed to the Chair of Medicine in the King's College, Aberdeen, he will discharge the duties of his office with the utmost advantage and credit to the University.

DAVID SKAE, M.D., F.R.C.S.
Lecturer on Anatomy, &c.

III.

**DR. WOOD, F.R.C.P., Lecturer on the Practice of
Medicine.**

I HAVE had the pleasure of being acquainted for some years with Dr. John Blyth, and have admired the ardour and zeal with which he devoted himself to the study of chemistry.

In him, however, this was not, as is too often the case, allowed to occupy his exclusive attention, and I had ample opportunity of seeing that the more strictly practical parts of his professional studies were not neglected.

His acquaintance with anatomy and physiology, com-

bined with his chemical acquirements, would make his lectures doubly valuable to the student of medicine, should he succeed in obtaining the present object of his ambition.

(Signed) A. WOOD, M.D., F.R.C.P.

IV.

Dr. ALFRED S. IMPEY, *Great Yarmouth.*

Yarmouth, July 10, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE this moment heard of your intention to become a Candidate for the Chair of Medicine and Chemistry in the University of Aberdeen.

Rarely has it been my good fortune to meet in practice with an individual so well calculated as yourself for such a high position. The general failing of physicians possessing such extensive knowledge in the collateral sciences as you possess, seems to have been devotion to them to the exclusion of practical medicine. Over this tendency your mind has triumphed; disciplined by these studies, you have brought to the investigation of disease habits of close observation and induction. You have not forgotten to inquire, amidst the ardour of your pursuits through the delightful regions of physical science, *how* the knowledge acquired may be best used in the alleviation of human suffering. Deeply conversant with the manifold theories of medicine, as deeply conversant with disease itself, the accuracy of your diagnosis, and success of your treatment, the result, I doubt not, of a long and attentive clinical study, has often been a source of admiration to myself, and to those of our professional brethren, who had the advantage of meeting you whilst in practice here.

It is to men of your talents and acquirements, to minds

constituted like your own, that we look for the extension and improvement of medical science. Sincerely wishing you may obtain an appointment so well calculated to keep alive your zeal and energies in the cause, and so worthy of your labours,—Believe me to remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours, very truly,

ALFRED S. IMPEY, M.D.

V.

General Testimonial from Medical Practitioners, who have met Dr. Blyth in consultation in Great Yarmouth.

Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, July 10, 1844.

WE, the undersigned Medical Practitioners at Great Yarmouth, having frequently had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Blyth during his residence here, have much pleasure in bearing testimony of our high opinion of his medical abilities.

G. BATEMAN.

CHARLES COSTERTON.

W. T. FEMER.

CHAS. ALAUD.

J. BAYLEY.

FRED^K. NATH^L. PALMER.

FREDERICK PALMER.

T. C. SMITH.

VI.

*From DR. SHARPEY, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology
in University College, London.*

London, July 15, 1844.

DR. BLYTH having requested me to communicate what I know respecting his medical education and acquirements, I beg to say that, having been well acquainted with Dr. Blyth, and observant of his career from the time he first became a student in Edinburgh, I am able to state that he has applied himself assiduously, and, I believe, successfully to the study of the several branches of medical knowledge. With regard to Anatomy in particular, having been his teacher in that department, I can affirm that he evinced a decided taste for that study, and pursued it with great ability and success, insomuch that he at one time acted as my assistant in preparing the dissections required for my lectures, and performed that duty to my entire satisfaction. I may further state, that since taking his degree, Dr. Blyth spent some time in London expressly for the purpose of extending his practical knowledge of disease, and its treatment.

(Signed)

DR. SHARPEY.

VII.

*From DR. WILLIS, L.R.C.P., Corresponding Member of
the Academy of Göttingen, Physician to the Children's
Hospital, Waterloo Road, Author of several Chemico-
Medical Works, &c. &c.*

London, July 4, 1844.

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the merits

of my friend, Dr. Blyth. I have known him for many years devoted in his pursuit; first, of the Medical sciences, properly so called, and well acquainted with these in all their bearings, both as to theory and to practice; and second, of the sciences accessory to medicine, particularly *general physics* and *chemistry*. In the latter department of natural knowledge, Dr. Blyth has above all distinguished himself: he has already made discoveries of high interest, and gone far to secure himself an European reputation. The presence of Dr. Blyth, in any University, could not fail of being found an honour to it. When it is added that Dr. Blyth is a man of the most amiable disposition, I think I have said all that is necessary to assure the Professors of King's College, Aberdeen, that in electing Dr. Blyth to fill the vacant Medical and Chemical Chair they would secure a most effective professor, and the most agreeable friend and colleague.

(Signed)

R. WILLIS, M.D.

The following are a few of the Testimonials obtained by DR. BLYTH when—some years ago—standing for the office of Physician to the Yarmouth Hospital.

I.

W. P. ALISON, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh and one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary, &c. &c.*

DEAR SIR,

I am fully justified by the records of your examinations before the Faculty of Medicine here, in stating, that you passed those examinations, both in the more scientific and more practical branches, uncommonly well, and quite to the satisfaction of all the Professors ; and when I consider besides, the length of time that you have devoted to the acquisition of medical knowledge, and the opportunities of observation of disease which you have enjoyed, I cannot doubt that you are qualified to practise the profession usefully and creditably, and to take charge of any medical institution, in such a way as to give perfect satisfaction to all concerned in it. I am, &c.

W. P. ALISON.

II.

ROBERT GRAHAM, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, and one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary, &c. &c.*

I HEREBY certify, that I have to-day examined the University Books for the record of Dr. J. B. Blyth's various

examinations, when a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His examinations were conducted in 1838 and 1839 ; I find he gave satisfaction to every one of his examinators, and by far the greater number have given a very high degree of praise.

ROB^T. GRAHAM.

III.

ROBERT CHRISTISON, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh, and one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary, &c. &c.*

DEAR SIR,

IN reply to your request, I have much pleasure in certifying, that during your attendance as a pupil of this University, you were a very diligent and zealous student ; and that, as appears from the records of the Faculty of Medicine, you made a good appearance at all your examinations prior to receiving the degree of M.D., and, in particular, shewed yourself to be conversant with the different departments of medical, surgical, and obstetric practice. I have no doubt of your being amply qualified for the office of Physician to the Yarmouth Hospital.—I am, &c.

ROB^T. CHRISTISON.

IV.

SIR CHARLES BELL, *Professor of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, &c. &c.*

DEAR SIR,

FROM the shifting and discreditable manner in which so many of the medical youth are introduced into the profes-

sion, I feel it my duty to forward those who have been regularly educated. On referring to my book, you passed a good examination, and that implies long, regular, and diligent study ; and as you have sought other means of improvement since, I augur well of your success ; and it will gratify me to hear that you have become attached to an hospital.—I am, &c.

CHARLES BELL.

V.

W. SHARPEY, M.D., F.R.S., *Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in University College, London, &c. &c.*

I CERTIFY that I have been intimately acquainted with Dr. J. B. Blyth for several years, and that I know him to be a man of excellent character and most agreeable disposition, with good abilities, and great acquirements in the several departments of medical knowledge. Dr. Blyth has been most zealous in extending and improving his professional attainments, and I know that he has spared neither pains nor expense in the accomplishment of that object. From what I know of Dr. Blyth, I am convinced that if he were elected Physician to the Yarmouth Hospital, his appointment would in due time reflect the greatest credit on the authorities of that Institution.

W. SHARPEY.

VI.

J. H. BALFOUR, M.D., F.R.S.E., *Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow.*

I HAD the pleasure of being acquainted with Dr. J. B. Blyth, during his residence in Edinburgh, and was led to form a high opinion of his talents and medical acquirements. He acted for some time as assistant to me at the Edinburgh New Town Dispensary, and I had every reason to be highly satisfied with the practical knowledge of his profession, which he at all times displayed, as well as the zeal and ability with which he discharged the duties of the office.

From his extensive medical information, his sound judgment, and his pleasing manners, I consider him well qualified for the situation of Physician to an hospital.

J. H. BALFOUR.

VII.

ALLEN THOMSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., *formerly Professor of Anatomy in Mareschal College, Aberdeen, &c.*

It gives me pleasure to state, that I was acquainted with Dr. J. B. Blyth during the time he studied in Edinburgh, and that I was led to form a very favourable opinion of his professional acquirements.

Dr. Blyth, in addition to good natural abilities, was distinguished by great diligence in his studies, and by the extent and accuracy of his information. He has had the advantage of a very complete professional education; and as he has since enjoyed considerable opportunities of observ-

ing and treating disease, I cannot but believe, that he is fully qualified to discharge the duties of Medical Officer to a public hospital in a manner highly advantageous to the Institution.

I may add, that Dr. Blyth's agreeable manners and amiable and correct dispositions, secured for him the esteem of those acquainted with him in this city.

ALLEN THOMSON.

VIII.

D. CRAIGIE, M.D., F.R.C.P., *Senior Physician to the Royal Infirmary, &c. &c.*

I HAVE known Dr. J. B. Blyth since the year 1837, when he was pursuing his medical studies in this city. He has received a very complete professional education, both in medicine and surgery, in this place, and also in Paris. Here he was very industrious and diligent in availing himself, to the utmost of his power, of all the accessible sources of professional improvement. The Certificates will show his regularity in the attendance on the different lecturers and teachers. At my lectures, his attendance was most regular; and as Physician to the Royal Infirmary, I can bear testimony to his punctuality in attending the practice of the hospital. In short, I have no doubt that Dr. Blyth, from his excellent education, abilities, zeal, and good sense, will make a most useful Physician, or Medical Officer, to any Hospital or Public Institution to which he may be appointed.

DAVID CRAIGIE.

IX.

J. DUNCAN, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., *Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, &c. &c.*

I HAVE been intimately acquainted with Dr. Blyth for several years, and it gives me much pleasure in bearing testimony to the high character of his general and professional attainments. Dr. Blyth's general education has been of a very excellent character ; and his medical one has been of the most extended kind. When a student at this University, Dr. Blyth held a very distinguished place both in the estimation of the professors, and in the opinion of his competitors ; and since then, he has devoted himself, with great ardour and success, to the more practical departments of his profession.

As to his proficiency in the latter departments, I can speak with perfect confidence, Dr. Blyth having been attached, for a considerable time, in the capacity of Assistant to the New Town Dispensary. In that Institution, about 8000 patients are seen, or visited at their own houses, annually ; and consequently there is an extensive field of observation opened to those who choose to take advantage of it. From the enthusiasm with which Dr. Blyth entered upon his duties in that Institution, a large number of the cases attended came under his own care ; and from the high opinion which the Medical Officers held of him, the treatment of these was confided entirely to himself.

Since then, Dr. Blyth has passed a considerable time in the study of his profession at the most distinguished Continental schools ; and from what I knew of him here, I am certain that he has done so to great advantage.

It is, therefore, with much pleasure that I express my belief, that Dr. Blyth, from his professional qualifications,

as well as from his excellent private character, and uniform courtesy and kindness of demeanour, is in every respect highly qualified to fill the situation of Medical Officer to any Public Institution ; and I am sure, that if elected to the situation he is now desirous of obtaining, he will discharge the duties appertaining to it with credit to himself, and advantage to the Institution.

JAMES DUNCAN.

X.

JOHN MOIR, M.D., F.R.C.P., Assistant Physician to the Edinburgh Lying-in Hospital, &c. &c.

IT affords me very great pleasure to bear testimony to Dr. Blyth's qualifications as a medical practitioner, and to his character as a gentleman.

While attending the classes at this University, he applied himself with unwearyed assiduity and great success to the study of his profession ; and since obtaining his degree, he has both here and elsewhere, especially in the Parisian Hospitals, been zealously engaged in adding to his stores of medical knowledge.

As one, in every part of his conduct, actuated by the highest principles, I can, both from my own knowledge and that of many of my friends, speak of him in the highest terms.

From all that I know of Dr. Blyth, I can conscientiously say, that I am acquainted with few individuals who are in every way so well qualified for the important duties of a medical practitioner ; and should he ever be called upon to fill the situation of Physician to an Infirmary or medical charity, I feel assured that his appointment will prove as useful to his patients as it will be agreeable to his colleagues.

JOHN MOIR.

XI.

FRANCIS DAVIES, M.R.C.S., *Pershore.*

Dr. J. B. Blyth lived with me as an assistant for some time, and I was exceedingly pleased with his very gentlemanly conduct during the time he lived in my house.

I consider his professional information to be very extensive, indeed, of a very high order; and his general attainments great. His benevolence and general conduct towards the poor have endeared him to those who were witnesses of the manner he treated my poorer patients.

FRANCIS DAVIES.

XII.

EDWD. D. DE VITRE, M.D., *Physician to the Lancaster County Lunatic Asylum, late Physician to the Lancaster General Hospital, &c. &c.*

I HAVE great pleasure in stating, that from my acquaintance with Dr. Blyth, he is in every way well qualified to discharge the duties of Physician to any public hospital. His education has been conducted on the most liberal scale, and his high professional attainments could only have been acquired by great zeal and industry on his part. It affords me additional pleasure to testify, that his moral principles are of the highest order, and in every respect such as peculiarly to qualify him for a medical appointment to a public charity.

EDWD. D. DE VITRE.

XIII.

C. CHADWICK, Esq., M. D., *Physician to the Leeds Fever Hospital, and Lecturer on Materia Medica in the Leeds Medical School, &c. &c.*

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE much pleasure in complying with your request—more especially as my remembrance of you, in all the particulars on which it is necessary to speak, is perfect. Throughout the period of our acquaintance in Edinburgh, I had ample means of ascertaining your attainments in medical learning—and can bear a willing testimony to your ability to take a high stand in our common profession. Your subsequent opportunities in the Parisian schools must have added very materially to your stock of knowledge. Your lengthened stay there will have enabled you to acquire such facilities in the more practical departments, as cannot fail eventually to promote your success. I can assure you, that amongst my numerous acquaintances, there are few to whom I wish this more heartily, or on whose realization of it I more confidently rely.

To the patrons of any public medical charity, I could conscientiously recommend you—in the full persuasion that they will be fortunate in securing your services.

CHARLES CHADWICK.

XIV.

R. HOPPER, M.D., *Physician to the Leeds General Hospital.*

I HAVE known Dr. J. B. Blyth for a considerable period, and it gives me very sincere pleasure to bear my testi-

mony to his professional merits. He has received a most excellent education, and has availed himself most assiduously of the great advantages he has experienced.

From his habits of study, his perfect acquaintance with the practical duties of his profession, and his high moral character, I feel convinced that he is perfectly well qualified to become connected with a public hospital as its Physician, and that he will perform the duties of the office with credit to himself, and with benefit to the patients who may be committed to his charge.

R. S. HOPPER, M.D.

XVI.

ROBERT PATERSON, Esq., M.D., Physician to the Leith Dispensary, and to the Casualty Hospital, &c., &c.

I HAVE much pleasure in certifying, that while a student in Edinburgh, you were one of the most diligent and persevering ; that your talents and acquirements were considered of a high order by myself, and by those of your medical teachers who were most intimate with you ; that your kind and obliging manners endeared you to your fellow-students, and that your upright and honourable conduct stamped you as a gentleman to all.

I can also confidently state, that the careful and pains-taking way in which you sought to procure information regarding the doctrines of morbid structures and diseases while in Edinburgh, and the many opportunities you have since enjoyed of rearing a superstructure by practical experience, must well and fully qualify you for undertaking the arduous duties of Physician to a General Hospital.

I need hardly farther say, that your success will afford happiness to many of your medical friends here, at the same time that it convinces us that the patrons of the Hospital in

question will have secured the services of one who will prove an ornament to their institution and to the profession at large.

ROBT. PATERSON.

XVII.

W. H. THOMSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., *one of the Physicians to the Edinburgh New Town Dispensary.*

I HAVE known Dr. Blyth for many years, and it gives me sincere pleasure to bear testimony to his excellent qualities of head and heart, as well as to the zeal and success with which he has cultivated the various branches of medical science.

When, some years ago, he was a pupil of the New Town Dispensary of this place, I had ample opportunity of witnessing both his kindness to the patients and his attention to the opportunities of improvement which the institution afforded. There can be no doubt that he will prove a real acquisition to any Hospital which shall be so fortunate as to secure his services.

W. H. THOMSON.

XVIII.

JAMES MERCER, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., *Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary, and Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology, &c.*

IT affords me much pleasure in bearing testimony to the professional qualifications of Dr. J. B. Blyth.

Having been acquainted with him during the greater part of the time he spent in this city acquiring his medical edu-

tion, I had ample opportunities for observing the very diligent and assiduous manner in which he cultivated his professional as well as his literary studies ; and from his uniform deportment and high moral feeling, he gained the esteem and respect of all those with whom he was associated.

Since leaving this place, he has been occupied for a very considerable time in extending his professional acquirements, by attending the prelections and practice of the extensive Parisian Hospitals, and, as I believe, that in the event of a vacancy occurring in the Medical Staff of the Yarmouth Hospital, he intends offering himself as a candidate for the situation, I feel quite assured, that, if elected, he will form a valuable associate, and a trustworthy physician to that institution.

JAMES MERCER.

XIX.

GEORGE PATERSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., *Physician to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, &c.*

I HAD the pleasure of Dr. J. B. Blyth's acquaintance as Medical Officer of the New Town Dispensary in this city, where he was for some months as pupil, and had ample opportunities of judging as to his professional skill, and competence for any Medical Institution of responsibility. It is my conviction, that he is in all respects well qualified to fill the office of Physician to a Public Hospital ; and that the Patrons of the Institution with which he at present seeks to become connected will, by appointing him, confer a great benefit on those most interested in the matter, and to whom it is of the utmost importance to be under the charge of a humane and skilful Physician.

G. PATERSON.

XX.

W^M. WALKER, Esq., *Surgeon to the Eye Dispensary of Edinburgh, and Lecturer on Diseases of the Eye.*

IT is now many years since I had the pleasure of becoming intimately acquainted with Dr. J. B. Blyth ; and my continued intercourse with him since that period, has led me to form a very high opinion of his general talents and acquirements.

Dr. Blyth, besides having received a high literary and medical education in this country, has travelled a great deal, and to good purpose. I consider his knowledge of medical science, as cultivated both at home and abroad, to be very extensive, and to entitle him to rank high as an accurate observer.

Dr. Blyth is, I understand, a Candidate for the office of Physician to the Yarmouth Infirmary. As I believe him to be largely endowed with all the qualities requisite for constituting an enlightened and judicious practitioner, I feel confident, that if appointed, he will discharge his duties with zeal and success ; and from my knowledge of his dispositions, I am sure that he will bestow great attention and humane consideration on the patients who may be placed under his care.

W. WALKER.

